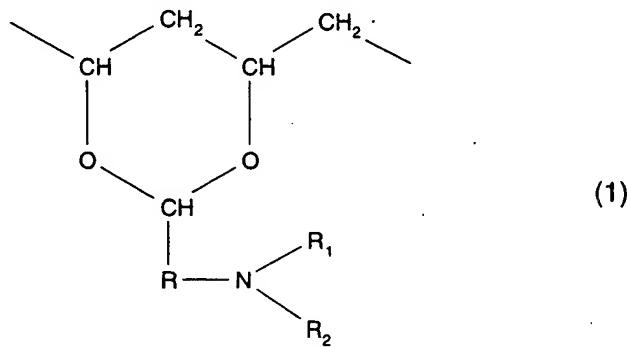


Claims:

1. Process for the manufacture of a molding comprising the steps:

- preparing an aqueous solution comprising a water-soluble prepolymer having crosslinkable groups and a further polymer which is devoid of crosslinkable groups,
- introducing the solution obtained into a mold,
- triggering the crosslinking, and
- opening the mold such that the molding can be removed from the mold.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable prepolymer having crosslinkable groups is a derivative of a polyvinyl alcohol having a molecular weight of at least about 2 000 that, based on the number of hydroxy groups of the polyvinyl alcohol, comprises from approximately 0.5 to approximately 80 % of units of formula



wherein R is C₁-C₈-alkylene, R₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₇-alkyl and R₂ is an olefinically unsaturated, electron-attracting, copolymerizable radical preferably having up to 25 carbon atoms.

3. A radical according to claim 2, wherein R₂ is a radical of formula



wherein q is zero or one and R₄ and R₅ are each independently C₂-C₈-alkylene, C₆-C₁₂-arylene, a saturated divalent C₆-C₁₀-cycloaliphatic group, C₇-C₁₄-arylenealkylene or C₇-C₁₄-alkylenearylene or C₁₃-C₁₆-arylenealkylenearylene, and R₃ is C₂-C₈-alkenyl.

4. A process according to claim 2, wherein R is C₁-C₄-alkylene, R₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and R₂ is a radical R₃-CO-, in which R₃ is C₂-C₄-alkenyl.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a polymerizable group in step a) is a polymer that forms a clear aqueous solution together with the prepolymer having crosslinkable groups.
6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a polymerizable group in step a) is a polyacrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, polyvinyl pyrrolidone or a polyoxyethylene derivative.
7. A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a polymerizable group in step a) is a polyethylene-polypropylene block copolymer.
8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a polymerizable group in step a) is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 0.5 to 10 % by weight, based on the entire weight of the aqueous solution.
9. A process according to claim 1, wherein according to step c) the prepolymer is photocrosslinked in the presence of a photoinitiator.
10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the photocrosslinking is carried out for a time period of less than five minutes.
11. A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a biomedical molding.
12. A molding obtainable by the process of claim 1.
13. A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a polymerizable group in step a) is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 0.5 to 3 % by weight, based on the entire weight of the aqueous solution.
14. A process according to claim 11, wherein the biomedical molding is a contact lens, intraocular lens or artificial cornea.